



Austin/Travis County Health and Human Services Department



Disease Prevention/Health Promotion Division
Epidemiology and Health Statistics Unit
15 Waller Street
Austin, TX 78702

Zika Situational Report – Friday, July 29, 2016

As of July 27, a total of 1658 laboratory-confirmed Zika virus disease cases have been reported to Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) from 50 U.S. states and the District of Columbia. Of the 1658 cases reported, 1657 are travel associated, 15 were sexually transmitted, 5 had Guillain-Barré syndrome, and 1 was laboratory acquired. CDC reports that there are 433 pregnant women with any laboratory evidence of possible Zika virus infection within the U.S. states and the District of Columbia.

Texas has 84 Zika virus disease cases.

There are 51 countries and territories with active Zika virus transmission.

As of today, staff have identified 232 persons (57 percent are pregnant women) in the City of Austin and Travis County for whom clinical specimens have been submitted to the Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS) for Zika virus testing. Results have been reported for 139 persons; four persons have been tested positive for Zika, two for Dengue, two for Chikungunya, one for West Nile, and one was inconclusive. Testing results are pending for 30 persons (63 additional individual specimens were not able to be tested). There are no reported severe illnesses or deaths from Zika virus.

Staff continue to work with Austin area physicians to educate them on the process of submitting specimens to the state laboratory for Zika virus testing. Guidance related to Zika disease and pregnancy, laboratory testing, and prevention of sexual transmission of Zika virus have been prepared by the CDC. Staff are sharing this guidance to physician offices when requested.

Staff are also conducting interviews of persons whose physician has submitted serum specimen to the state laboratory to collect demographic and exposure data required by DSHS. Staff also provide guidance on ways to protect oneself from mosquito bites to individuals who have scheduled trips to areas where Zika virus is circulating.

The Health Authority/Medical Director gave a Zika presentation to the Austin Metropolitan Breakfast Club.

For questions or more information about ways to reduce mosquitoes around property residents can continue to call Rodent and Vector program at 3-1-1.

The ATCHHSD's Zika website for healthcare providers and the public has been updated with links to new information and resources: <http://www.austintexas.gov/zika>.

Other news:

- The Florida Department of Health has gathered enough information as part of its ongoing investigation into non-travel related cases of Zika in Miami-Dade and Broward counties to conclude that a high likelihood exists that four cases are the result of local transmission.
- CDC updated interim guidance for the prevention of sexual transmission of Zika virus. The recommendations are updated to reduce the risk for sexual transmission of Zika virus from both men and women to their sex partners. The guidance defines potential sexual exposure to Zika virus as having had sex with a person who has traveled to or lives in an area with active Zika virus transmission when the sexual contact did not include a barrier to protect against infection.
- Mexico reports 1115 confirmed Zika cases.

The most common symptoms of Zika virus disease are fever, rash, joint pain, and conjunctivitis (red eyes). The illness is typically mild and resolves within one week.

We continue to encourage people to follow travel precautions and avoid mosquito bites. Preventative measures residents can take to avoid mosquito bites include draining any water around their property, wearing long-sleeved shirts and long pants and using EPA-registered insect repellents.

At this time, no additional resources are needed to address and respond to the Zika virus.

ATCHHSD staff are available 24/7 to support healthcare providers in responding to any patient with a suspect Zika virus infections. ATCHHSD has created a website for healthcare providers and the public that provide information:

<http://www.austintexas.gov/zika>.